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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 594

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Howard Bailey of
Chester County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened and deeply moved to learn of the untimely death of Judge Howard Bailey; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Chester County, Judge Bailey was a highly respected member of his community who evinced the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, raised in the Jacks Creek area of Chester County, Howard Bailey graduated from the Chester County High School before making his mark on the world in the trucking business; he was elected General Sessions Judge in 1968 and he served with great probity in that position for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey was one of the most respected judges in Tennessee; his rulings were based on common sense and he favored tempering justice with mercy; and

WHEREAS, Howard Bailey first served with acumen and alacrity as the General Sessions Judge of Chester County and later as the Juvenile Judge for Chester County, in which positions he earned the respect of his fellow citizens for his commitment to justice and equity; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure in the Tennessee judicial system, Judge Bailey distinguished himself as an accomplished jurist and was an exceptional asset both to his community and to the bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey possessed a great love for the juveniles that came before his court, and he was very innovative in establishing programs that allowed them the opportunity to redirect their lives and avoid becoming entangled in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, after he became Juvenile Judge in 1982, Judge Bailey founded the non-profit West Tennessee Community Services. Under this progressive program, juveniles are placed under intensive, one-on-one probation, instead of being incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, the West Tennessee Community Services program has proven to be very successful and now serves 13 counties and approximately 250 youths each year; and

WHEREAS, Howard Bailey was deeply devoted to the law, and he always endeavored to remain true to the highest precepts of American justice. His wisdom, understanding of human nature, and strong moral compass, never wavered during his illustrious career on the bench; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, Mr. Bailey had been named co-chairman of Chester County's Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society, and he was also designated by the Chester County Chamber of Commerce as its "Citizen of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his exceptional humanitarian efforts, the Chester County Juvenile Court has established a trust fund in memory of Judge Bailey; entitled "The Howard Bailey Youth Fund," the trust will benefit the youth of Chester County to whom Judge Bailey selflessly dedicated his professional life to helping; and

WHEREAS, Judge Howard Bailey was an extremely giving person who always reached out with compassion to people who life had treated unkindly, and he epitomized the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey was a rare individual who made a difference in the lives of his co-workers and fellow jurists, his church, his community, and his family; he will be sorely missed by all those who knew and cherished him; and

WHEREAS, Judge Bailey leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Judge Howard Bailey, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character; he distinguished service on the bench and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Judge Bailey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.